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MIAMI, AUG. 12 (UPI)--JAMES B. DONOVAN, THE NEW YORK LAWYER WHO HELPED WIN FREEDOM FOR U-2 PILOT FRANCIS GARY POWERS, IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE HERE FOR CUBA EARLY THIS WEEK TO CONFER WITH FIDEL CASTRO.

THE PURPOSE OF DONOVAN'S TRIP IS TO DISCUSS THE FATE OF THE MORE THAN 1,100 PRISONERS OF THE ILL-FATED BAY OF PIGS INVASION IN APRIL 1961.

DONOVAN'S ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO RANSOM THE PRISONERS HAD BEEN KEPT SECRET FOR MORE THAN 10 DAYS. IT IS REPORTED DONOVAN MET HERE WITH SEVERAL OF THE PRISONERS ALREADY RANSOMED FROM CUBA.

CUBAN SOURCES SAID DONOVAN MET SECRETELY WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY LAST WEEK, AND HE OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO TRY AND FREE THE CUBAN PRISONERS.

IT IS REPORTED THAT THE NEW YORK ATTORNEY HAS MADE AT LEAST 10 TELEPHONE CALLS TO CUBA AND THAT HIS VISIT HAS BEEN CLEARED BY CUBA'S FOREIGN MINISTER RAUL ROA CASTRO.

HOPES IN MIAMI'S CUBAN COLONY ARE RUNNING HIGH, AND THE EXILES FEEL THAT DONOVAN'S TRIP WILL REOPEN THE DOOR TO NEGOTIATIONS TO FREE THE PRISONERS.

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